

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9395

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ETRD, EAGR, TH

SUBJ: THAI SUGAR CONTRACTS

REF: A. BANGKOK 20022

B. STATE 281194

1. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE HAD MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DR. THALERNG MORNING DECEMBER 26 AND DISCUSSED SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO THE US AND M. GOLODETZ & CO. CONTRACT. DEPUTY MINISTER REAFFIRMED THAILAND SUGAR CORP. ASSURANCE OF DECEMBER 26 REPORTED REFTEL A, THAT RG COULD NOT LEGALLY BREAK SUGAR CONTRACTS AND WOULD HONOR COMMITMENTS WITH GOLODETZ AND SINGAPORE COMPANY.

2. HE EMPHASIZED THAILAND WOULD LOSE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY SHIPPING SUGAR TO US BECAUSE US PRICES ARE LOWER THAN IN OTHER MARKETS AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE HIGHER. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE 300,000 TONS COMMITMENT UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS AND WITH PRIVATE FIRMS NEGOTIATING WITH JAPAN TO SUPPLY 200,000 TONS OF SUGAR, THERE WAS LITTLE LEFT FOR EXPORT TO OTHER MARKETS NEXT YEAR OR TWO. DR. THALERNG STATED THAT THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IS NEGOTIATING WITH SEVERAL OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO BARTER SUGAR FOR OIL AND IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL IT WOULD

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TAKE MOST OF THE EXCESS SUGAR AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

3. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE DISCUSSED THE POINTS IN REFERENCE B
ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND QUOTA PREFERENCE SHOULD QUOTAS
BE RE-ESTABLISHED SOME TIME IN FUTURE. DR. THALERNG SAID HIS
GOVERNMENT PREFERRED TO KEEP DOOR OPEN TO US SUGAR MARKET
AND SIZE OF THAI SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO US IN 1975 WILL DEPEND
ON WHAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
KINTNER

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